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A Simple Near Optimal Parallel Algorithm for Recognizing Outerplanar Graphs

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Abstract. An outerplanar graph is a graph which can be embedded in the plane so that all vertices lie on the boundary of the exterior face. In this paper, we propose a simple near optimal parallel algorithm for recognizing whether a given graph G is outerplanar in $O(\log n)$ time using $O(n\alpha(l, n)/\log n)$ processors on an arbitrary-CRCW PRAM where n is the number of vertices in G , $\alpha(l, n)$ is the inverse Ackermann function, which grows extremely slowly with respect to l and n [9] and $l = O(n)$. Although a near optimal parallel algorithm for general graphs can also be obtained by combining the algorithm in [3] with the algorithm for finding biconnected components [4][9], our algorithm uses methods completely different from the algorithm in [3]'s and is much simpler than [3]'s.

1 Introduction

An outerplanar graph is an undirected graph which can be embedded in the plane in such a way that all vertices lie on the exterior face (see Fig. 1). A graph always denotes an undirected graph throughout this paper, except when it is specified to be directed. For outerplanar graphs, several efficient algorithms for solving important problems e.g., vertex-coloring, edge-coloring, longest path, are known [9][5]. Furthermore, it is well-known that a given graph is outerplanar if and only if a given graph has page number one, where graph G has page number one if there exists a linear arrangement of vertices so that no pair of edges is crossing when they are drawn on the same side of the linear arrangement of the vertices [13][11]. The

problem of deciding whether a given graph has page number one is the special case of the book embedding, whose application to fault-tolerant VLSI design is described e.g., in the introduction of [13]. Thus, it is useful to develop efficient algorithms for recognizing whether a given graph is outerplanar or not.

Mitchell [10] proposed an $O(n)$ sequential algorithm for recognizing outerplanar graphs where n is the number of vertices in G . The sequential algorithm removes a vertex v satisfying some properties from a given graph G step by step, and cannot straightforwardly be applied to develop an efficient parallel algorithm. Diks, Hagerup and Rytter [3] developed a parallel algorithm for recognizing outerplanar graphs. When an input graph is biconnected, the algorithm [3] runs in $O(\log n)$

time using $O(n/\log n)$ processors on a CRCW PRAM (, see e.g., [8]), where n is the number of vertices in G . However, when an input graph is a general graph, we need to find biconnected components before applying the algorithm [3] to each biconnected component. The best known parallel algorithm for finding biconnected components runs in $O(\log n)$ time using $O((n+m)\alpha(m,n)/\log n)$ processors on the arbitrary-CRCW PRAM [4] [9] where m is the number of edges and $\alpha(m,n)$ is the inverse Ackermann function, which grows extremely slowly with respect to m and n [9].[†] The arbitrary-CRCW PRAM is defined by the property that when several processors try to write to the same memory cell in the same step, then exactly one of them succeeds [8]. As outerplanar graphs have at most $2n-3$ edges [10], by checking this fact first, we can find biconnected components in $O(\log n)$ time using $O(n\alpha(l,n)/\log n)$ processors on the arbitrary-CRCW PRAM where $l = O(n)$. Thus, the algorithm [3] combined with the algorithm for finding biconnected components [4] [9] takes, in total, $O(\log n)$ time using $O(n\alpha(l,n)/\log n)$ processors on the arbitrary-CRCW PRAM, when applied to general graphs. Similarly, on a CREW PRAM(, see e.g., [8]), the complexity of parallel algorithm [3] is dominated by finding biconnected components, when applied to general graphs.

In this paper, we present a simple near optimal parallel algorithm for recognizing outerplanar graphs in $O(\log n)$ time using

[†]If the class of input graphs is *linearly contractible graph class* [7] such as the class of planar graphs, an optimal parallel algorithm for finding biconnected components that runs in $O(\log n)$ time using $O(n/\log n)$ processors on the arbitrary-CRCW PRAM exists [7]. However, this algorithm does not work for general graphs.

$O(n\alpha(l,n)/\log n)$ processors on the arbitrary-CRCW PRAM, in the sense that $O(\log n) \times O(n\alpha(l,n)/\log n) = O(n\alpha(l,n))$ is almost linear with respect to n . Although a near optimal parallel algorithm for general graphs can also be obtained by combining the algorithm in [3] with the algorithm in [4] [9], our algorithm uses methods completely different from the algorithm in [3]'s, e.g., the well known *st*-numbering, and is much simpler than [3]'s.

2 Definitions

Given an undirected connected graph $G = (V, E)$ having no multiple edges. A path P from v_0 to v_k in G is a finite non-null sequence $v_0, e_1, v_1, e_2, v_2, \dots, e_k, v_k$, $v_i \in V$, $i = 0, 1, \dots, k$, $e_j \in E$, $j = 1, 2, \dots, k$, such that, for $1 \leq i \leq k$, the end vertices of e_i are v_{i-1} and v_i , respectively. If $v_0 = v_k$, then path P is a circuit.

A biconnected graph G is a connected graph which has no vertex v such that $G-v$ (the graph obtained by removing v from G) has at least two connected components. A biconnected outerplanar graph has a planar embedding consisting of a circuit bounding the exterior face, where (possibly) a number of non-crossing edges are embedded within the interior region of this circuit [5]. Edges on the boundary of the exterior face are called *sides*, while the other edges are called *diagonals* [5].

Next, we describe the *st*-numbering used in our parallel algorithm.

Definition 1 [12] An *st*-numbering is a one-to-one function f from V to $\{1, \dots, n\}$ satisfying the following two conditions :

- (i) $f(s) = 1$ and $f(t) = n$,

(ii) for each $v \in V - \{s, t\}$, there exist adjacent vertices v_1 and v_2 such that $f(v_1) < f(v) < f(v_2)$.

Fig. 2 illustrates st -numbering. The st -numbering is used as an indispensable component in several algorithms [12]. We have the following theorem.

Theorem 1 [12] *A graph G is biconnected if and only if it has an st -numbering by letting $s = u$ and $t = v$ for each edge (u, v) .*

(Note 2.1) If graph G is biconnected, its st -numbering can be obtained in $O(\log n)$ time using $O((n + m)\alpha(m, n)/\log n)$ processors [4] where n (resp., m) is the number of vertices (resp., edges) in G and $\alpha(m, n)$ is the inverse Ackermann function.

3 The Parallel Algorithm

We first assume that the given graph G is biconnected. We shall describe how to treat general graphs at the end of this section. The following theorems characterize outerplanar graphs.

Theorem 2 [6] *Given graph $G = (V, E)$, G is outerplanar if and only if G has no subgraph homeomorphic to either K_4 or $K_{2,3}$, where K_4 is the complete graph on four vertices and $K_{2,3}$ is the graph illustrated in Fig. 3. \square*

Theorem 3 [10] *An outerplanar graph G with $n(\geq 3)$ vertices has*

- (i) *at most $2n - 3$ edges,*
- (ii) *at least two vertices of degree 2. \square*

Our parallel algorithm first checks, based on Theorem 3, if G has at most $2n - 3$ edges and

at least two vertices of degree 2. Then, this algorithm chooses a vertex v of degree 2 and a vertex v' incident to v ; regards v (resp., v') as s (resp., t) and finds st -numbering of G . Note that, by Note 2.1 just after Theorem 1, we can find st -numbering of G because G is assumed to be biconnected. When G is outerplanar, exactly one Hamiltonian circuit always exists in G , and the edges constructing the Hamiltonian circuit can be regarded as sides of the outerplanar graph [2][5]. Consequently, the above process finds the sides by the following lemma. In the following, suppose that the vertices in G are numbered from 1 to n by st -numbering where s is a vertex of degree 2 and t is a vertex incident to s and each vertex in G is identified with its vertex number.

Lemma 1 *If G is outerplanar, then all edges $(i, i + 1)$, $i = 1, \dots, n - 1$, are in G .*

(proof) We shall show that, if G does not have some edge among $(i, i + 1)$, $i = 1, \dots, n - 1$, then G is not outerplanar. Assume that vertex i is not incident to vertex $i + 1$. By the definition of st -numbering, each vertex x , $x = 2, \dots, n - 1$, must be incident to a vertex whose number is less than x and to a vertex whose number is more than x , respectively. By this fact and the connectivity of G , G has simple path $P_{i,s} = i, j_1, j_2, \dots, j_l, s$, ($l \geq 1$) where $i > j_1 > j_2 > \dots > j_l > 1 (= s)$. Vertex 1 ($= s$) is adjacent to exactly two vertices $n (= t)$ and 2 by definition, so j_l of $P_{i,s}$ must be 2, (see Fig. 4). Similarly, for $i + 1$, simple path $P_{i+1,s} = i + 1, j'_1, j'_2, \dots, j'_{l'}, s$, ($l' \geq 1$) where $i + 1 > j'_1 > j'_2 > \dots > 2 (= j'_{l'}) > 1 (= s)$ exists.

Moreover, by the fact that each vertex x , $x = 2, \dots, n - 1$, must be incident to the vertex

whose number is more than x , G has simple paths $P_{i,t} = i, k_1, k_2, \dots, t$, where $i < k_1 < k_2 < \dots < t (= n)$, and $P_{i+1,t} = i+1, k'_1, k'_2, \dots, t$, where $i+1 < k'_1 < k'_2 < \dots < t (= n)$.

Since $t > \dots > k_2 > k_1 > i > j_1 > j_2 > \dots > j_l > 1 (= s)$, $P_{i,t}$ and $P_{i,s}$ share no vertex except i . Similarly, $P_{i,t}$ and $P_{i+1,s}$, $P_{i+1,t}$ and $P_{i,s}$, $P_{i+1,t}$ and $P_{i+1,s}$ share no vertex except $i, i+1$. G^* , constructed by $P_{i,s}, P_{i+1,s}, P_{i,t}$ and $P_{i+1,t}$, has a subgraph homeomorphic to $K_{2,3}$ (, see Fig 4). Hence, G is not outerplanar by Theorem 2, which however contradicts the assumption that G is outerplanar. Thus we have shown that if G is outerplanar, then G has all edges $(i, i+1)$, $i = 1, \dots, n-1$. \square

By Lemma 1, if at least one edge among $(i, i+1)$, $i = 1, \dots, n-1$, does not exist in G , then the algorithm stops since G is not outerplanar, otherwise the edges $(i, i+1)$, $i = 1, \dots, n-1$, and $(n, 1)$ construct a Hamiltonian circuit C . We regard the edges constructing C as sides of the outerplanar graph. (Note that if G is outerplanar, Hamiltonian circuit C is unique [5].)

We assume that C is embedded in the plane so that each edge of C bound the exterior face and the edges of $G - C$ ($G - C$ denotes the graph obtained by removing edges of C from G) are embedded within the interior region of C . The edges of $G - C$ are called *diagonals* of G . If the diagonals do not intersect each other on such embedded edges, then G is outerplanar, otherwise G is not outerplanar.

To see this, we execute the following process. Hereafter, we identify each vertex with its vertex number assigned by *st*-numbering.

Let $M(i)$, $i = 1, \dots, n$, be an array such that $M(i)$ contains vertex j_0 where $j_0 \equiv \min\{ j \mid j \text{ is the endpoint of diagonals adjacent to } i \}$. If there is no diagonal incident to i , $M(i)$ has a value $+\infty$ where $+\infty$ is a sufficiently large number satisfying $+\infty > n$. For each diagonal (x, y) such that $x < y$, we execute $val(x, y) \leftarrow \min\{ M(i) \mid x \leq i \leq y \}$ and regard $val(x, y)$ as the value of diagonal (x, y) . On the value $val(x, y)$ for each diagonal (x, y) , we obtain the following lemma.

Lemma 2 *Assume that Hamiltonian circuit C is embedded in the plane so that each edge of C bounds the exterior face and diagonals are embedded within the interior region of C .*

The diagonals intersect each other if and only if there is a diagonal (x, y) , where $x < y$, such that the value $val(x, y)$ is less than vertex number x .

(proof) (\Rightarrow) Assume that there is a pair of diagonals which intersect each other. Let (x, y) , (x', y') , where $x < y$, $x' < y'$ and $x' < x$, be a pair of intersecting diagonals. As these two diagonals intersect each other, vertex y' satisfies $x < y' < y$ and is adjacent to diagonal (x', y') where $x' < x$ (See Fig. 6(a)). Hence, $val(x, y) = \min\{ M(i) \mid x \leq i \leq y \} < x$.

(\Leftarrow) Assume that no diagonals intersect each other. Since no diagonals intersect each other, each vertex j adjacent to vertex i , where $x \leq i \leq y$, satisfies $x \leq j \leq y$ for each diagonal (x, y) where $x < y$ (See Fig. 6(b)). Hence, $val(x, y) = \min\{ M(i) \mid x \leq i \leq y \} \geq x$. \square

In the following, we introduce **Procedure Recognition** for recognizing whether a given graph is outerplanar.

Procedure Recognition

begin

- (Step 1) **if** $m > 2n - 3$,
 then print “ G is not outerplanar” and stop.
- (Step 2) **if** G does not have at least two vertices of degree 2,
 then print “ G is not outerplanar” and stop.
- (Step 3) Choose a vertex v of degree 2 and a vertex v' incident to v ; regard v and v' as s and t , respectively, and find an st -numbering of G [12][4].
- (Step 4) **if** G does not have at least one edge among $(i, i+1)$ for all i , $1 \leq i \leq n-1$, where $i, i+1$ are the vertex numbers assigned by Step 3,
 then print “ G is not outerplanar” and stop.
- (Step 5) For each vertex i , $i = 1, \dots, n$,
 $M(i) \leftarrow \min\{j \mid j \text{ is the endpoint of diagonals adjacent to } i\}$.
- (Step 6) For each diagonal $e_j = (x, y)$ where $x < y$,
 $val(x, y) \leftarrow \min\{M(i) \mid x \leq i \leq y\}$
- (Step 7) **if** there is a diagonal (x, y) , where $x < y$, such that $val(x, y) < x$,
 then print “ G is not outerplanar”,
 else print “ G is outerplanar”.
- end.** □

The correctness of Procedure Recognition is obvious by Theorem 3 and Lemmas 1 and 2. We then analyze the computation time and the number of processors required.

The complexity analysis is done under the assumption that each vertex of the input graph G has a pointer to its predefined adjacency list, that is, for each vertex $v \in V$, the vertices adjacent to vertex v are given in a linked list, say, $L[v] = \langle u_1, u_2, \dots, u_d \rangle$, in some order, where d is the degree of v (Fig. 5(a)). Recall that the arbitrary-CRCW PRAM is used as a parallel computation model in this paper.

The list ranking algorithm [8] can handle steps 1, 2 in $O(\log n)$ time using $O(n/\log n)$ processors.

Note that $m = O(n)$ in the following analysis, as steps 3-7 are executed only when $m \leq 2n - 3$ by step 1.

The parallel algorithm for finding st -numbering runs in $O(\log n)$ time using $O((n+m)\alpha(m, n)/\log n)$ processors [4] where n (resp., m) is the number of vertices (resp., edges) in input graphs and $\alpha(m, n)$ is the inverse Ackermann function. Thus, in step 3, finding st -numbering of G requires $O(\log n)$ time using $O(n\alpha(l, n)/\log n)$ processors where $l = O(n)$.

After finding the st -numbering, each of the initial vertex numbers in the adjacency lists $L[i]$'s is replaced by its number assigned by the st -numbering. For this process, we first transform the adjacency lists $L[i]$'s into a linked list L' as follows. Let a vertex u_d^i be the last element in the adjacency list $L[i]$ of vertex i and a vertex u_1^{i+1} the first element in $L[i+1]$. Each vertex u_d^i has a pointer to u_1^{i+1} , for $i = 1, \dots, n-1$, (See Fig. 5(b)). We then convert the linked list L' into an array A by applying the list ranking algorithm [8] which runs in $O(\log n)$ time using $O(n/\log n)$ processors. And we replace each of the initial vertex numbers by its number assigned by st -numbering using a standard technique used to implement Brent's scheduling principle[5][8] as follows. Partition elements of A into equal-sized blocks E_i , $i = 1, \dots, |A|/\log n$, where each size is $O(\log n)$. Treat each block E_i separately, and sequentially replace each of the initial vertex numbers belonging to block E_i by its number assigned by st -numbering. This process runs in $O(\log n)$ time using $O(n/\log n)$ processors.

Step 4 runs in $O(\log n)$ time using $O(n/\log n)$ processors by applying Brent's scheduling principle[5][8] stated in step 3.

Let $A[k, k']$, $1 \leq k < k' \leq |A| (= O(n))$ be an interval between k and k' in A . Note that the elements in A are numbers assigned by st -numbering. As the degree of each vertex is found in step 2, we can recognize the vertices adjacent to vertex v as the element in interval $A[k, k']$ where $1 \leq k < k' \leq |A|$. For example, assume that d_i is the degree of vertex i , the vertices adjacent to vertex 1 are the elements in $A[1, d_1]$, the vertices adjacent to vertex 2 are the elements in $A[d_1 + 1, d_1 + d_2]$, and so on. (Note: Given the degree of each vertex, the intervals in A corresponding to vertex i for $i = 1, \dots, n$, are found in $O(\log n)$ time using $O(n/\log n)$ processors by applying prefix-sums algorithm [8].) Hence, in step 5, finding each minimum vertex number adjacent to vertex i for $i = 1, \dots, n$, can be done by computing the minimum of interval in A corresponding to vertex i . As described in [8](pp. 131-136), after executing a preprocessing algorithm (ALGORITHM 3.8 in [8]) which runs in $O(\log n)$ time using $O(n/\log n)$ processors, we can compute the minimum $A_{min}[k_i, k'_i]$ of $A[k_i, k'_i]$, that is, $\min\{A(k_i), A(k_i + 1), \dots, A(k'_i)\}$, where $1 \leq k_i < k'_i \leq |A|$, in $O(1)$ time using $O(1)$ processors. We need to compute the minimum $A_{min}[k_i, k'_i]$'s corresponding to vertex i , $i = 1, \dots, n$. Hence, by Brent's scheduling principle[5][8], we can compute the minimum $A_{min}[k_i, k'_i]$'s for $i = 1, \dots, n$, in $O(\log n)$ time using $O(n/\log n)$ processors. The total complexity in step 5 is $O(\log n)$ time using $O(n/\log n)$ processors.

In step 6, we compute $\min\{M(i) \mid x \leq i \leq y\}$, where $x < y$, for each diagonal $e_j = (x, y)$, $j = 1, \dots, k (= O(n))$. Since this process is equivalent to the process described in step 5, this can be done in $O(\log n)$ time using $O(n/\log n)$ processors.

Step 7 takes $O(\log n)$ time using $O(n/\log n)$ processors.

Having assumed that the input graph G is a biconnected graph so far, we shall describe, before closing this section, how to decide whether G is outerplanar when G is a general graph. We first check if G has at most $2n - 3$ edges. We next find biconnected components, that is, blocks B_1, B_2, \dots, B_k of G by applying the algorithm of finding biconnected components in [4] [9], which runs in $O(\log n)$ time using $O(n\alpha(l, n)/\log n)$ processors. If G is outerplanar, then each of blocks B_1, B_2, \dots, B_k is also outerplanar [2]. Thus, we independently execute Procedure Recognition for each of these blocks B_1, B_2, \dots, B_k . If a block B_i is an edge, then Procedure Recognition tells that B_i is outerplanar. When each block B_i , $i = 1, \dots, k$, is outerplanar, we print " G is outerplanar" and stop. By the above-mentioned statements, we have the following theorem.

Theorem 4 *Given a graph G with n vertices and m edges, whether G is outerplanar or not can be decided in $O(\log n)$ time using $O(n\alpha(l, n)/\log n)$ processors on the arbitrary-CRCW PRAM where $\alpha(l, n)$ is the inverse Ackermann function, which grows extremely slowly with respect to l and n [9] and $l = O(n)$. \square*

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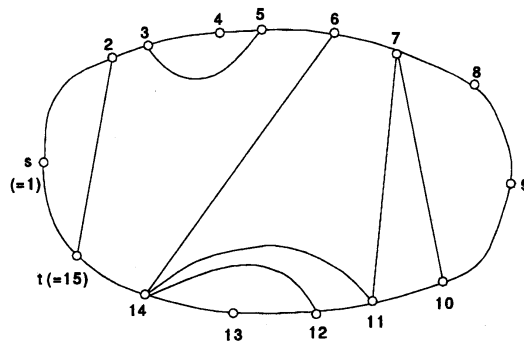


Figure 1: An example of an outerplanar graph.

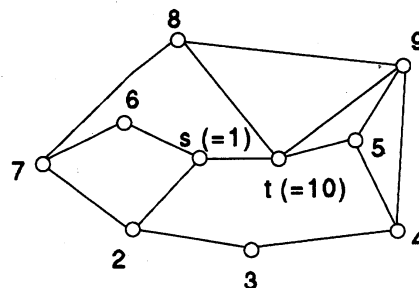


Figure 2: An example of st -numbering.

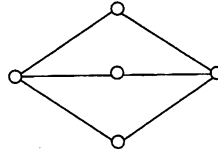


图 3: $K_{2,3}$.

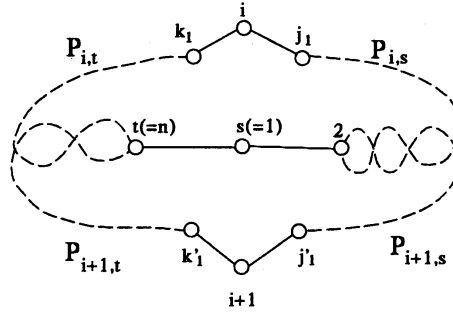


图 4: Illustration of the proof of Lemma 1.

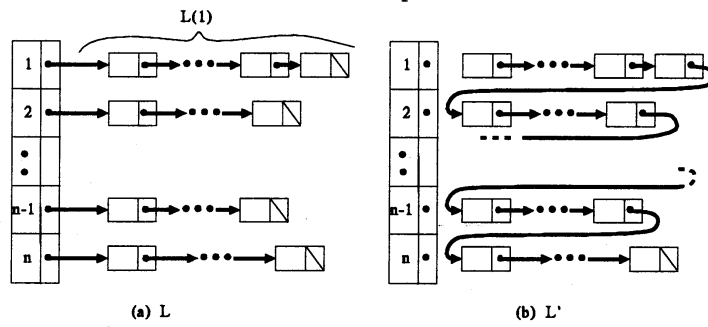


图 5: Adjacency lists $L(i)$, $i = 1, \dots, n$, and linked list L' .

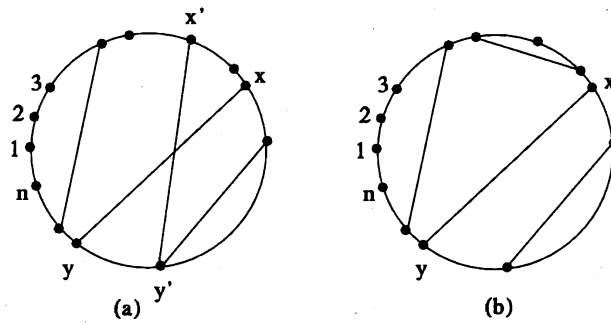


图 6: Illustration of the proof of Lemma 2.